The vigilance of those who preside over these charities is so exemplary, that persons disposed to do good can entertain no suspicions of the *misapplication* of their bounty. *Atterbury.*

It is our duty to be provident for the future, and wisely to guard against whatever may lead us into *misapplications* of it. *Roger's Sermons.*

To MISAPPLY'. *v. a.* [*mis* and *apply.*] To apply to wrong purposes.

Virtue itself turns vice, being *misapplied,*
And vice sometime by action's dignified. *Shakespeare.*

The holy treasure was to be reserved, and issued for holy uses, and not *misapplied* to any other ends. *Howel.*

He that knows, that whiteness is the name of that colour he has observed in snow, will not *misapply* that word as long as he retains that idea. *Locke.*

To MISAPPRE'HEND. *v. a.* [*mis* and *apprehend,*] Not to understand rightly.

That your reasonings may lose none of their force by my *misapprehending* or misrepresenting them, I shall give the reader your arguments. *Locke.*

MISAPPREHE'NSION. *n. s.* [*mis* and *apprehension.*] Mistake; not right apprehension.

It is a good degree of knowledge to be acquainted with the causes of our ignorance: and what we have to say under this head, will equally concern our *misapprehensions* and errors. *Glanville's Scep.*

To MISASCRI'BE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *ascribe.*] To ascribe falsly.

That may be *misascribed* to art which is the bare production of nature. *Boyle.*

To MISASSI'GN. *v. a.* [*mis* and *assign*] To assign erroneously.

We have not *misassigned* the cause of this phenomenon. *Boyle.*

To MISBECO'ME. *v. a.* [*mis* and *become.*] Not to become; to be unseemly; not to suit.

Either she has a possibility in that which I think impossible, or else impossible loves need not *misbecome* me. *Sidney.*

What to the dauphin from England?
—Scorn and defiance, slight regard, contempt,
And any thing that may not *misbecome*
The mighty sender. *Shak. Henry* V.

That boldness which lads get amongst their play-fellows, has such a mixture of rudeness and an ill-turn'd confidence, that those *misbecoming* and disingenuous ways of shifting in the world must be unlearned to make way for better principles. *Locke.*

Portius, thou may'st rely upon my conduct;
Thy father will not act what *misbecomes* him. *Addison.*

MISBEGO'T. } *adj.* [*begot* or *begotten* with *mis.*] Unlawfully
MISBEGO'TTEN. } or irregularly begotten.

Contaminated, base,
And *misbegotten* blood, I spill of thine. *Shakesp. Henry* VI.

Your words have taken such pains, as if they labour'd
To bring man-slaughter into form, set quarrelling
Upon the head of valour; which, indeed,
Is valour *misbegot,* and came into the world
When sects and factions were but newly born. *Shakesp.*

The *misbegotten* infant grows,
And, ripe for birth, distends with deadly throes
The swelling rind, with unavailing strife,
To leave the wooden womb, and pushes into life. *Dryden.*

To MISBEHA'VE. *v. n.* [*mis* and *behave.*] To act ill or improperly.

MISBEHA'VED. *adj.* [*mis* and *behaved.*] Untaught; ill-bred; uncivil.

Happiness courts thee in her best array;
But, like a *misbehav'd* and sullen wench,
Thou pout'st upon thy fortune and thy love. *Shakespeare.*

MISBEHA'VIOUR. *n. s.* [*mis* and *behaviour.*] Ill conduct; bad practice.

The *misbehaviour* of particular persons does not at all affect their cause, since a man may act laudably in some respects, who does not so in others. *Addison's Freeholder.*

MISBELI'EF. *n. s.* [*mis* and *belief.*] False religion; a wrong belief.

MISBELI'EVER. *n. s.* [*mis* and *believer.*] One that holds a false religion, or believes wrongly.

Yes, if I drew it with a curst intent
To take a *misbeliever* to my bed,
It must be so. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*

To MISCA'LCULATE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *calculate.*] To reckon wrong.

After all the care I have taken, there may be, in such a multitude of passages, several misquoted, misinterpreted, and *miscalculated.* *Arbuthnot on Coins.*

To MISCA'LL. *v. a.* [*mis* and *call.*] To name improperly.

My heart will sigh when I *miscal* it so. *Shak. Rich.* II.

The third act, which connects propositions and deduceth conclusions from them, the schools call discourse; and we shall not *miscal* it if we name it reason. *Glanville's Scep.*

What you *miscal* their folly is their care. *Dryden.*

MISCA'RRIAGE. *n. s.* [*mis* and *carriage.*]

1. Unhappy event of our undertaking; failure; ill conduct.

Resolutions of future reforming do not always satisfy justice, nor prevent vengeance for former *miscarriages* *King Charles.*

When a counsellor, to save himself,
Would lay *miscarriages* upon his prince,
Exposing him to publick rage and hate,
O, 'tis an act as infamously base,
As, should a common soldier sculk behind,
And thrust his general in the front of war. *Dryd. Sp. Fr.*

If the neglect or abuse of the liberty he had, to examine what would really make for his happiness, misleads him, the *miscarriages* that follow on it must be imputed to his own election. *Locke.*

A great part of that time which the inhabitants of the former earth had to spare, and whereof they made so ill use, was now employed in digging and plowing; and the excess of fertility which contributed so much to their *miscarriages,* was retracted and cut off. *Woodward's Nat. Hist. p.* ii.

Your cures aloud you tell,
But wisely your *miscarriages* conceal. *Garth's Dispensatory.*

How, alas! will he appear in that awful day, when even the failings and *miscarriages* of the righteous shall not be concealed, though the mercy of God be magnified in their pardon. *Roger's Sermons.*

2. Abortion; act of bringing forth before the time.

There must be flying and death, as well as *miscarriages* and abortions; for there died many women with child. *Graunt's Bills of Mortality.*

To MISCA'RRY. *v. n.* [*mis* and *carry.*]

1. To fail; not to have the intended event; not to succeed; to be lost in an enterprise; not to reach the effect intended.

Have you not heard of Frederick, the great soldier, who *miscarried* at sea? *Shakespeare's Measure for Measure.*

Our sister's man is certainly *miscarried.* *Shakespeare.*

Is it concluded he shall be protector?
—It is determin'd, not concluded yet:
But so it must be if the king *miscarry.* *Shakesp. Rich.* III.

If you *miscarry,*
Your business of the world hath so an end,
And machination ceases. *Shakesp. King Lear.*

Sweet Bassanio, my ships have all *miscarried,* my creditors grow cruel, my estate is very low. *Shak. Merchant of Venice.*

I could mention some projects which I have brought to maturity, and others which have *miscarried. Addison's Guard.*

No wonder that this expedient should so often *miscarry,* which requires so much art and genius to arrive at any perfection in it. *Swift's Miscel.*

2. To have an abortion.

Give them a *miscarrying* womb and dry breasts. *Hos.* ix. 14.

So many politick conceptions so elaborately formed and wrought, and grown at length ripe for a delivery, do yet, in the issue, *miscarry* and prove abortive. *South's Sermons.*

His wife *miscarried*; but the abortion proved a female fœtus. *Pope and Arbuthnot's Mart. Scrib.*

You have proved yourself more tender of another's embrios, than the fondest mothers are of their own; for you have preserved every thing that I *miscarried* of. *Pope.*

MISCELLA'NE. *n. s.* [*miscellaneus,* Lat. This is corrupted into *mastlin* or *mestlin.*] Mixed corn: as, wheat and rye.

It is thought to be of use to make some *miscellane* in corn; as if you sow a few beans with wheat, your wheat will be the better. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.* N°. 670.

MISCELLA'NEOUS. *adj.* [*miscellaneus,* Latin.] Mingled; composed of various kinds.

Being *miscellaneous* in many things, he is to be received with suspicion; for such as amass all relations must err in some, and without offence be unbelieved in many. *Browne.*

And what the people but a herd confus'd,
A *miscellaneous* rabble, who extol
Things vulgar, and well weigh'd scarce worth the praise. *Milton's Par. Reg. b.* ii.

MISCELLA'NEOUSNESS. *n. s.* [from *miscellaneous.*] Composition of various kinds.

MI'SCELLANY. *adj.* [*miscellaneus,* Latin.] Mixed of various kinds.

The power of Spain consisteth in a veteran army, compounded of *miscellany* forces of all nations. *Bacon.*

MI'SCELLANY. *n. s.* A mass formed out of various kinds.

I must acquit myself of the presumption of having lent my name to recommend any *miscellanies* or works of other men. *Pope.*

When they have join'd their pericranies,
Out skips a book of *miscellanies.* *Swift.*

To MISCA'ST. *v. a.* [*mis* and *cast.*] To take a wrong account of.

Men *miscast* their days; for in their age they deduce the account not from the day of their birth, but the year of our Lord wherein they were born. *Brown's Vulgar Errours.*

MISCHA'NCE.

MISCHA'NCE. *n. s.* [*mis* and *chance.*] Ill luck; ill fortune; misfortune; mishap.

The lady Cecropia sent him to excuse the *mischance* of her beasts ranging in that dangerous sort. *Sidney, b.* i.

Extreme dealing had driven her to put herself with a great lady, by which occasion she had stumbled upon such *mischances* as were little for the honour of her family. *Sidney, b.* ii.

View these letters, full of bad *mischance.*
France is revolted. *Shakesp. Henry* VI. *p.* i.

Sleep rock thy brain,
And never come *mischance* between us twain. *Shakespeare.*

Nothing can be a reasonable ground of despising a man but some fault chargeable upon him; and nothing can be a fault that is not naturally in a man's power to prevent; otherwise, it is a man's unhappiness, his *mischance* or calamity, but not his fault. *South's Sermons.*

MI'SCHIEF. *n. s.* [*meschef,* old French.]

1. Harm; hurt; whatever is ill and injuriously done.

The law in that case punisheth the thought; for better is a *mischief* than an inconvenience. *Spenser on Ireland.*

Come you murth'ring ministers!
Wherever in your sightless substances
You wait on nature's *mischief.* *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

Thy tongue deviseth *mischiefs.* *Psal.* lii. 2.

Was I the cause of *mischief,* or the man,
Whose lawless lust the fatal war began? *Dryden's Æn.*

Come not thou with *mischief*-making beauty,
To interpose between us, look not on him. *Rowe.*

2. Ill consequence; vexatious affair.

States call in foreigners to assist them against a common enemy; but the *mischief* was, these allies would never allow that the common enemy was subdued. *Swift.*

To MI'SCHIEF. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To hurt; to harm; to injure.

If the greatest inward heat be not sweetened by meekness, or not governed by prudence, can it bring to our souls any benefit? rather it *mischiefs* them. *Sprat's Sermons.*

MI'SCHIEFMAKER. *n. s.* [from *mischief* and *make.*] One who causes mischief.

MI'SCHIEVOUS. *adj.* [from *mischief.*]

1. Harmful; hurtful; destructive; noxious; pernicious; injurious; wicked.

This false, wily, doubling disposition is intoleral'y *mischievous* to society. *South's Sermons.*

I'm but a half-strain'd villain yet;
But mongrel *mischievous.* *Dryden.*

He had corrupted or deluded most of his servants, telling them that their master was run mad; that he had disinherited his heir, and was going to settle his estate upon a parish-boy; that if he did not look after their master he would do some very *mischievous* thing. *Arbuthnot's Hist. of John Bull.*

2. Spiteful; malicious. *Ainsworth.*

MI'SCHIEVOUSLY. *adv.* [from *mischief.*] Noxiously; hurtfully; wickedly.

Nor was the cruel destiny content
To sweep at once her life and beauty too;
But like a harden'd felon took a pride
To work more *mischievously* slow,
And plundered first, and then destroy'd. *Dryden.*

MI'SCHIEVOUSNESS. *n. s.* [from *mischievous.*] Hurtfulness; perniciousness; wickedness.

Compare the harmlessness, the tenderness, the modesty, and the ingenuous pliableness, which is in youth, with the *mischievousness,* the slyness, the craft, the impudence, the falshood, and the confirmed obstinacy found in an aged, long-practised sinner. *South's Sermons.*

MI'SCIBLE. *adj.* [from *miscco,* Latin.] Possible to be mingled.

Acid spirits are subtile liquors which come over in distillations, not inflammable, *miscible* with water. *Arbuthnot.*

MISCITA'TION. *n. s.* [*mis* and *citation.*] Unfair or false quotation.

Being charged with *miscitation* and unfair dealing, it was requisite to say something; for honesty is a tender point. *Collier's View of the Stage.*

To MISCI'TE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *cite.*] To quote wrong.

MISCLA'IM. *n. s.* [*mis* and *claim.*] Mistaken claim.

Error, *misclaim* and forgetfulness, become suitors for some remission of extreme rigour. *Bacon.*

MISCOMPUTA'TION. *n. s.* [*mis* and *computation.*] False reckoning.

It was a general misfortune and *miscomputation* of that time, that the party had so good an opinion of their own reputation and interest. *Clarendon.*

To MISCONCE'IVE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *conceive.*] To mis-judge; to have a false notion of.

Ne let false whispers, breeding hidden fears,
Break gentle sleep with *misconceived* doubt. *Spenser.*

Our endeavour is not so much to overthrow them with whom we contend, as to yield them just and reasonable causes of those things, which, for want of due consideration heretofore, they *misconceived.* *Hooker, b.* v.

Misconceived Joan of Arc hath been
A virgin from her tender infancy. *Shakesp. Henry* VI.

MISCONCE'IT. } *n. s.* [*mis* and *conceit,* and *conception.*] False
MISCONCE'PTION. } opinion; wrong notion.

The other which instead of it we are required to accept, is only by error and *misconceit* named the ordinance of Jesus Christ; no one proof as yet brought forth, whereby it may clearly appear to be so in very deed. *Hooker.*

It cannot be that our knowledge should be other than an heap of *misconception* and error. *Glanville's Scep.*

Great errors and dangers result out of a *misconception* of the names of things. *Harvey on Consumptions.*

It will be a great satisfaction to see those pieces of most ancient history, which have been chiefly preserved in scripture, confirmed anew, and freed from those *misconceptions* or misrepresentations which made them sit uneasy upon the spirits even of the best men. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

MISCO'NDUCT. *n. s.* [*mis* and *conduct.*] Ill behaviour; ill management.

They are industriously proclaimed and aggravated by such as are guilty or innocent of the same slips or *misconducts* in their own behaviour. *Addison's Spect.* N°. 256.

It highly concerned them to reflect, how great obligations both the memory of their past *misconduct,* and their present advantages, laid on them, to walk with care and circumspection. *Rogers's Sermons.*

To MISCONDU'CT. *v. a.* [*mis* and *conduct.*] To manage amiss; to carry on wrong.

MISCONJE'CTURE. *n. s.* [*mis* and *conjecture.*] A wrong guess.

I hope they will plausibly receive our attempts, or candidly correct our *misconjectures.* *Brown's Vulgar Errours.*

To MISCONJE'CTURE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *conjecture.*] To guess wrong.

MISCONSTRU'CTION. *n. s.* [*mis* and *construction.*] Wrong interpretation of words or things.

It pleas'd the king his master very lately
To strike at me upon his *misconstruction,*
When he conjunct, and tatt'ring his displeasure,
Tript me behind. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*

Others conceive the literal acceptation to be a *misconstruction* of the symbolical expression. *Brown's Vulgar Err.*

Those words were very weakly inserted where they are so liable to *misconstruction.* *Stillingfleet.*

To MISCO'NSTRUE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *construe.*] To interpret wrong.

That which by right exposition buildeth up Christian faith, being *misconstrued* breedeth error; between true and false construction the difference reason must shew. *Hooker, b.* iii.

We would have had you heard
The manner and the purpose of his treasons;
That you might well have signified the same
Unto the citizens, who, haply, may
Misconstrue us in him. *Shakesp. Rich.* III.

Many of the unbelieving Israelites would have *misconstrued* this story of mankind. *Raleigh.*

Do not, great Sir, *misconstrue* his intent,
Nor call rebellion what was prudent care,
To guard himself by necessary war. *Dryden's Aurengzebe.*

A virtuous emperor was much afflicted to find his actions *misconstrued* and defamed by a party. *Addison.*

MISCONTI'NUANCE. *n. s.* [*mis* and *continuance.*] Cessation; intermission.

To MISCO'UNSEL. *v. a.* [*mis* and *counsel.*] To advise wrong.

Every thing that is begun with reason
Will come by ready means unto his end,
But things *miscounseled* must needs miswend. *Spenser.*

To MISCO'UNT. *v. a.* [*mescounter,* French, *mis* and *count.*] To reckon wrong.

MI'SCREANCE. } *n. s.* [from *mescreance* or *mescroiance,* suspicion,
MI'SCREANCY. } French.] Unbelief; false faith; adherence to a false religion.

If thou wilt renounce thy *miscreance,*
And my true liegeman yield thyself for ay,
Life will I grant thee for thy valiance. *Spenser.*

The more usual causes of deprivation are murther, man-slaughter, heresy, *miscreancy,* atheism, simony. *Ayliffe.*

MI'SCREANT. *n. s.* [*mescreant,* French.]

1. One that holds a false faith; one who believes in false gods.

Their prophets justly condemned them as an adulterous seed, and a wicked generation of *miscreants,* which had forsaken the living God. *Hooker, b.* v.

2. A vile wretch.

Now by Apollo, king,
Thou swear'st thy gods in vain.
—O vassal! *miscreant!* *Shakespeare's King Lear.*

If extraordinary lenity proves ineffectual, those *miscreants* ought to be made sensible that our constitution is armed with force. *Addison's Freeholder,* N°. 50.

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